

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W
-----005913 300034Z /64

R 291542Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9369
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, GH
SUBJ: ACHEAMPONG HOLDS TO TWO-YEAR TRANSITION PERIOD

1. ON JULY 28 HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG DECLARED THAT THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL (SMC) WILL NOT CHANGE THE TWO-YEAR TIMETABLE FOR TRANSITION TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE JUST TO SUIT THE WHIMS OF THE PROFESSIONALS, A GROUP WHICH "DOES NOT CONSTITUTE THE MOUTHPIECE OF THE GHANAIAI PEOPLE." SPEAKING WHILE SWEARING IN NEW MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL, ACHEAMPONG SAID THAT IT WAS NOT RPT NOT TRUE THAT THE SMC HAD AGREED TO RETURN THE COUNTRY TO A CONSTITUTIONAL RULE WITHIN ONE YEAR AS SOME PEOPLE WERE CLAIMING.

2. RE UNION GOVERNMENT, ACHEAMPONG OBSERVED THAT THE SMCN INTENDED TO EVOLVE A SYSTEM WHICH WOULD
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BRING PEACE AND HARMONY TO THE COUNTRY. HE ASSERTED THAT "IF THE PEOPLE WANT THE ARMED FORCES TO BE MEMBERS OF THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION, WE WILL ACCEPT IT; IF THEY DO NOT WANT US, WE SHALL STAY BEHIND; IF THEY WANT PARTY POLITICS, WE WILL GIVE IT TO THEM."

3. GRAPHIC COMMENTED EDITORIALY THAT "THE CONSEQUENCE

OF A HASTY TRANSFER OF POWER IS OBVIOUS -- A RETURN TO POLITICAL CONFUSION. . . . IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE TO EXPECT THAT THE TWO-YEAR PROGRAM FOR A RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE CAN BE SHORTENED, WHEN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS ALONE WILL TAKE AT LEAST A YEAR TO BE DONE WELL." IT URGED ALL CITIZENS "TO STEER CLEAR OF ANY ACTION AIMED AT FORCING THE SMC'S HANDS INTO A RECKLESS HANDLING OVER."

4. COMMENT: ACHEAMPONG'S PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS REFUSAL TO CONSIDER SHORTENING THE TWO-YEAR TIMETABLE WILL FURTHER ANGER THE PROGRESSIONALS, WHO ARE CONVINCED HE WAS RENEGED ON A PROMISE TO MOVE TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE WITHIN ONE YEAR. THUS A NEW ROUND OF CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN PROFESSIONALS AND SMC IS A GROWING POSSIBILITY.
HOLMES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, CONSTITUTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ACCRA05808
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770273-0381
Format: TEL
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977077/aaaaafbj.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a7c1676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1897996
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACHEAMPONG HOLDS TO TWO-YEAR TRANSITION PERIOD
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, GH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a7c1676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009